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... inside washington

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WASHINGTON — When Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House, he was subject to a lot of criticism because of the occasional consultant work he called on his brother Milton, a college president, to perform for the government. There was a time when Ike's right wing opponents openly charged he was under the influence of his brother, who had served in the government during the New Deal of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

That wasn't the only brother act in the Eisenhower administration, however. There was John Foster Dulles and his brother, Allan. Foster was secretary of State; Allan was head of the Central Intelligence Agency. There never was any criticism of this duo, as most observers considered it good for intergovernmental liaison for the two to be in such sensitive positions.

The Kennedy administration is not to be outdone in the brothers department. There is Robert, appointed by his President brother, Jack, to be attorney general.

Another set of brothers exists in McGeorge Bundy, Kennedy's special assistant for national security, and William P. Bundy, recently appointed a deputy to the assistant secretary of Defense for International Affairs. William worked for Allan Dulles in the CIA until last year. He is a son-in-law of former Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

Our Eye On Venus, Too — Russia's sensational achievement in launching a "piggy-back" rocket on a trip to Venus has recaptured world opinion on the argument over which nation is first in space, and by inference, scientific and technical achievement.

For what it's worth, the United States had such a plan on its drafting boards with the first attempt scheduled for June 1959. The idea, originating in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was to provide for three Venus probes. Considerable basic work had been done on the

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project, but it was abandoned a month before the scheduled first shot, because some "bugs" couldn't be worked out of the payload in time.

What actually happened was that the Space Technology Laboratories of Englewood, Calif., literally "complicated themselves right out of a satellite." The scientists tried to incorporate 13 separate scientific experiments into the Venus probe payload, couldn't jam all the instrumentation into it, and therefore shelved the idea.

The U. S. planned several subsequent efforts, but instrument failures prevented launchings. On such decisions has hung the world prestige of the United States ever since 1957 when Russia succeeded in orbiting history's first man-made satellite.

More On White House Portraits — The Kennedys continue to hang portraits on the White House walls because of their artistic merit and historical value, with no concern whether a particular painting has a Republican or a Democratic background.

Mrs. Kennedy has placed a famous Howard Chandler Christy portrait of Mrs. Calvin Coolidge in the Red Room, appropriately, as the former first lady was wearing a bright red dress.

Mrs. Coolidge recalled that her late husband was somewhat concerned over the bright coloring, but the artist insisted the color would contrast nicely with a white Collie he planned to paint into the portrait at Mrs. Coolidge's side.

Coolidge, still concerned, is said to have replied, "Why not paint her in a white dress and dye the doggie red?"

Incidentally, Mrs. Coolidge insists the "doggie" is a Collie, not a Russian wolfhound, and that its name was "Prudence Prim," not "Rob Roy," as identified by the White House.